

# Another's Baby Palmed Off On Anna Gould As Her Own?

## And If This Is So, Then Where Is the Daughter Who Was So Mysteriously Spirited Away, and What Will Become of the Little Duke of Sagan Who Is Said to Have Been Put in Her Place in the Cradle?



On the left—The former Anna Gould and the Duke of Sagan whom she is said to think not her child. And below—the young Duke held in the arms of Anna Gould's second husband, the Duke of Talleyrand



The sweet faced little Duke of Sagan who is, according to the latest Paris gossip, the center of a most extraordinary mystery. If the Duchess of Talleyrand is not his mother, then whose child is he? And why was he substituted for the Duchess' baby girl?

Count Boni de Castellane, Anna Gould's first husband



Bonifazio Veronese's painting, "The Judgment of Solomon"—a famous Biblical incident which is recalled by the rumor that the Duchess of Talleyrand will try to prove the Duke of Sagan no child of hers

decided she had the other's child, basing her suspicion on a resemblance to one of her older children which she believed she saw beginning to develop in the baby the other woman had. The suspicious mother took the matter to court, where it was admitted that the identification tags might have been exchanged. But

But why is it that after thirteen years of the young Duke de Sagan's life as her son the Duchess de Talleyrand takes this late occasion to declare him no child of hers? The boy's features must have developed long before now into some recognizable resemblances. Does he resemble Boni de Castellane more than he does the Duke de Talleyrand? This may be one of the questions the French courts will have to decide.

In her original application for divorce the Duchess of Talleyrand asked to be given custody of both children—the thirteen-year-old son as well as the seven-year-old daughter, Helen Violette, who lately arrived in this country. Her alleged renunciation of the former leaves the poor little duke in a most unenviable position. He loses the woman he has always regarded as his mother and must face the future with what amounts to a bar sinister across his escutcheon.

It is doubtful if the boy will be cared for by the family of the former Anna Gould, for they were strongly opposed to her match with the Duke of Talleyrand. Nor can he look forward with many hopes to the other side of the family. The title which the boy bears, and which he may speedily lose by the way—that of the Duke de Sagan—is a German one and carries no great amount of either wealth or influence.

It is a question now whether he ever will come into the dukedom of Talley-

rand-Perigord of France. That title does not carry a great deal of prestige nowadays in republican France. Anna Gould's millions lent more glitter to it than it has seen for some time.

Is it possible that the boy's mother will take pity on him in his plight by making herself known and confessing her motherhood?

The future of the little duke, the fate of the girl whose place he is said to have taken—these and other features of this amazing situation are furnishing the gossips with the richest of morsels.

It all reads like a chapter from a novel whose plot the critics would be likely to think improbable and calculated to strain credulity. Yet it is only a little more surprising than many other incidents in the life of the former Anna Gould since she became betrothed to Count Boni.

Only a day or so after the cables brought the rumor that she was disowning the little duke there came the report that she and the Duke of Talleyrand have become reconciled and are planning a second honeymoon. As these lines were written, however, there was nothing to indicate that her lawyers had stopped the divorce proceedings they began some time ago.

was little chance for any confusion, but with the modern practice of expectant mothers going to hospitals the possibility of mistakes is increased. In a large maternity ward, where a number of babies are born each day and the children kept in a common nursery, there is danger that some of the little red mites of humanity may get mixed.

To avoid serious errors of this sort, the hospitals have methods of precaution, the most common of which is the binding of a thin strip of adhesive tape around baby's wrists, its name being written in ink on the tape.

Another newer way is to take an imprint of the sole of one of the baby's feet, just as one takes thumb prints by the Bertillon system. This is said to be an accurate manner of identification, since no two baby footprints are quite the same.

But in spite of all the care that is taken to prevent the tragedy of a mother's receiving some other woman's child, while she is deprived, perhaps forever, of her own, such mistakes do occur from time to time.

Not long ago in a hospital in Newark

occurred such a blunder which turned out to be quite amusing, because it was discovered and rectified. Two babies, a boy and a girl born the same day, were mixed by a nurse when she turned them over to their mothers who were leaving the hospital. The hospital authorities kept a record of the babies by placing strings of colored beads around their necks. These were removed when the babies were taken out. The mistake was made when the nurse in getting the babies ready to go home switched the beads on the babies.

Hence the mother of a boy took out a girl and nursed her at home without discovering the mistake. The maternal instinct of both mothers, in fact, was deceived. It remained for the father who had been receiving congratulations for nine days on the birth of a son to discover the changeling. He hurried back to the hospital with the girl, notified the other parents and received his boy.

Two New York mothers whose beds were side by side in the Gouverneur Hospital, gave birth to girls the same day. After leaving the hospital one

nothing could be determined for a certainty.

In Montreal the other day there was even a case where two babies, two years old, who had been ill in a hospital, were wrongly redistributed and spent four months in wrong households. Although one baby was fair and the other dark, the change went unnoticed until an investigation of the hospital records happened to reveal the mistake.

Anna Gould's first husband, Count Boni de Castellane, is not a man of wealth. He was impoverished and in debt when he married, and was forced to obtain from her a marriage settlement in advance to satisfy the most pressing of his creditors. In the marriage contract it was stated that, contrary to Continental custom the bride was to retain the control of her fortune. Naturally when the divorce was granted, after a long and celebrated suit, the count was thrown back on far slimmer resources. Did Count Boni, having already three acknowledged sons, seek to provide for the support of another by putting him in the place of his former wife's daughter?